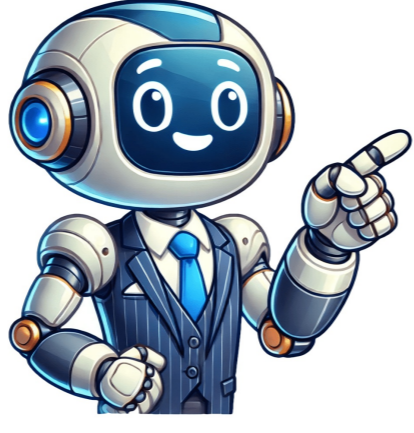


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## Allergy test for dogs cost

When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn a commission. Here’s how it works.**Image credit:** Happy monkey, Shutterstocks your dog scratching incessantly? Or do you think your dog isn’t tolerating his food well because he’s having ongoing digestive issues? If so, you may be wondering how to find out what your dog is allergic to. Allergy testing is the most efficient method, and now there’s an easy way to test your dog for a wide variety of food and environmental allergens from the convenience of your home. I review some of the best at-home dog allergy test kits that could help you uncover what’s pestering your pup. These kits test for sensitivity or intolerance to food and environmental factors that develop over time rather than IgE (Immunoglobulin E) allergies, which are caused by the body’s immune system. IgE allergic reactions can occur within minutes of ingestion or exposure and are diagnosed through a blood test or skin prick test by veterinarians. Here are some examples of what at-home kits test for:Food intolerance and sensitivities (proteins, grains, veggies, fruits, oils, etc.) Artificial food preservatives and additives Airborne allergens (pollens, grasses, dust, fungus) Fleas, ants, and dust mites Household cleaning ingredientsThese kits aren’t meant to replace a consultation with your veterinarian if you suspect your dog has allergies. Rather, you should discuss these kits’ results with your veterinarian. They can complement blood or skin allergy testing that your vet performs. Are you wondering how to test for dog allergies at home? How do these kits work? All you have to do is collect a hair or saliva sample (depending on each company) and mail it to the company’s lab. Then, you’ll receive results via email within a few weeks. You should share your results with your veterinarian to determine the best treatment plan for your pup.It’s important to keep in mind that conventional scientific research hasn’t found tests analyzing hair samples for intolerances to be conclusive or accurate. However, holistic veterinary medicine often utilizes these test methods and many holistic vets are proponents. Like humans, dogs can develop allergies to a multitude of substances, including a variety of foods, medications, shampoos, and environmental factors. What are the top dog allergies? The most common food allergens include dairy products, beef, egg, chicken, lamb, wheat, and soy. Common environmental triggers include fleas and dust mites, as well as molds and pollens from trees, grasses, weeds, and flowers.Dog allergy symptoms can vary widely based on what’s causing the allergy, but some common symptoms include:Increased scratching Itchy, red, moist, or scabby skin Constant licking Itchy, runny eyes Itchy ears and ear infections Hair loss Sneezing Vomiting and/or diarrheaWe based our rankings of the best allergy test for dogs you can do at home on several factors, including the information you get with your results, customer reviews, pricing, and more.View on 5Strands | View on Amazon | View on ChewyThe extensive 5Strands Pet Food and Environmental Intolerance Test kit tests for a whopping 275 food ingredients and 105 environmental items. The laboratory scans your pet’s hair sample (10-15 strands) using bioresonance technology, which “creates a profile of energies that radiates from a person or pet,” according to the company’s website. This analysis helps identify imbalances in the body.The test also provides you with an easy-to-understand report. Results are color-coded, with red being foods and other triggers to avoid and yellow to flag those items to use with caution. They also give you dietary and lifestyle guidelines, including a recommended elimination diet (if needed), based on your dog’s results. While some owners said the results were inaccurate, many found the test extremely helpful in alleviating their pet’s allergy symptoms. 5Strands also has approval from organizations such as the North American Society of Homeopaths (NASH), the American Holistic Health Association (AHHa), and the American Pet Products Association (APPA).Pros:Cons:Tests for 380 food and environmental itemsOn the pricey side Only requires hair samplesGet results in 7 daysWebsite lists all allergens they test forAlso offers other pet wellness tests Customer support via live chat, phone, and emailFor dogs and catsPet Food & Environmental Intolerance Test: \$118.00 Pet Food Intolerance Test: \$86.00 Looking for a 5Strands promo code? Get 10% off your order with the coupon code CSM10. Just click here to get started. Read my full review of 5Strands to learn more about the science behind this company’s analysis methods and other pet tests 5Strands offers. Visit WebsiteMy Pet Health Store (formerly My Pet Sensitivity) offers a holistic Basic Dog Sensitivity Test, which tests for 300 food ingredients, artificial food preservatives, and environmental allergens. Like 5Strands, this company uses bioresonance technology to analyze hair strands from your furry friend to determine which items your dog may have an intolerance to. My Pet Health Store hasn’t been on the market nearly as long as 5Strands, but I still think it’s worth consideration, particularly for the more affordable pricing. Results provide all the items that could be causing temporary imbalances and discomfort for your pet as well as an elimination guide. This company also offers a similar test kit for cats, a puppy & kitten test, and an advanced test, which includes nutrition and metals & minerals analysis in addition to the basic sensitivity analysis. My Pet Health Store is trusted and accredited by NASH and the International Practitioners of Holistic Medicine (IPHM).Pros:Cons:Tests for 300 food and environmental itemsNo sample results available on their siteCompetitive pricing with frequent discountsSome customer complaints that it takes much longer than 5-7 days to receive resultsOnly requires hair sampleGet results in 5-7 daysWebsite lists all items they test forSteep discounts when purchasing multiple tests100% money-back guaranteeMy Pet Health Store has frequent discounts on the following pricing.Advanced Pet Sensitivity Test: \$100 Basic Dog Sensitivity Test: \$90 View all optionsIn-Depth Review Of My Pet Health StoreTo see more test details, read my full review of My Pet Health Store’s Dog Intolerance Test. Visit WebsiteThe EasyDNA dog Intolerance test kit tests for over 143 food items and 49 environmental allergens by analyzing 4-5 strands of hair. The kit also includes a small green collection tube, which you can use to send a sample Of anything you think your pet is sensitive to (e.g., pollen, dust, food, treats, shampoo, etc.)Results include the potential allergens that produced 95% or more intolerance in analysis. It also provides a guide on how to proceed with the complete removal of these elements from your dog’s diet and environment for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. You can also order an add-on Food Suggestion Report for an additional \$39. It provides a personalized list of specific food brands and recipes you can incorporate into your dog’s diet based on his food sensitivities.Pros:Cons:Competitive pricingNo information about the type of scientific analysis used Tests for 190+ food and environmental itemsSome reports about long wait times for phone supportOnly requires hair sampleGet results within 5 days\$10 discount on each additional test kitThe website lists all allergens they test for and has a sample results reportLive chat, phone, and email supportLooking for an Easy DNA promo code? Click here for the best deal we could find.As this market grows, more providers jump in with their allergy test kits. Who knows? Maybe you’ll try more than one and find one of these works better for your unique pup and situation. I’ve also reviewed:Visit WebsiteThe Pet Intolerance Test by Glacier Peak Holistics tests for over 300 stressors or triggers in your pet’s diet and environment using a method based on traditional Chinese medicine, homeopathy, and Western holistic medicine.The testing method uses energetic analysis with a “biofeedback device.” What exactly does that mean? According to their website, biofeedback “has the ability to read the energetic resonance that emanates from the hair and saliva samples.” So this test measures imbalances that could indicate an intolerance or sensitivity to certain items. If you’re into holistic medicine for your dog, you may find value in this test kit.They received the test samples and we got the results within a week, thanks to selecting the expedited shipping option! The results included a 3-page PDF breakdown of my dog’s energy imbalances and stressors. Be sure to check out each company’s website for age restrictions before purchasing. IgE allergy testing for dogs in a veterinarian’s office can be performed using two techniques: skin or blood testing.Consider the “gold standard” in determining the cause of atopic dermatitis, an intradermal skin test involves an injection of a small amount of a potential allergen under the skin’s surface. After about 20 minutes, the area is examined for a reaction at the site.Large areas of your dog’s coat must be shaved to allow the injection sites to be monitored for a reaction. Three things to note with intradermal testing: (1) your dog will need to be anesthetized; (2) it’s only performed by veterinary dermatologists, who may not be available in your area; and (3) the test may be expensive. Vets can also conduct a blood test if they suspect that your dog has allergies. The serum from your dog is tested for sensitivity to a variety of potential allergens, including dust, pollen, fungi, dust mites, and common ingredients found in dog food. No anesthesia or shaving of the injection area is needed. However, blood tests can be less precise than skin tests and are also prone to false positives. Still, they’re considered safer because there’s less risk of a severe allergic reaction at the injection site. They also don’t require anesthesia.Pricing varies by your vet and location, but in general, you can expect to pay an average of \$200 for a skin test and \$200-\$300 for a blood test. If your dog is getting a skin test, you may also have to pay a vet examination fee and for sedation. Sedation averages from \$50-\$100 for a small dog and \$100-\$200 for a large dog.Depending on the condition or reason you’re getting the allergy test and the coverage details from your insurance company, in most cases, the answer is yes; pet health insurance can help pay for allergy testing for itchy skin and other problems. Some pet insurance plans will cover the allergy test and the entire cost of the visit to your veterinarian, but coverage may vary based on the provider and your specific policy. Read our pet insurance reviews to see which companies we recommend.Is dog allergy testing worth it? For sure. Discovering what’s causing your pup’s discomfort and getting the appropriate treatment can be life-changing for your dog’s health, well-being, and overall happiness.If you’ve been discovered from one of these tests (and in consultation with your vet) that your dog isn’t tolerant of certain ingredients he’s been eating, talk to your vet about changing your dog’s diet. We encourage you to read our reviews of the best dog food delivery services and the best foods for dogs with allergies to find a possible alternative.Sally has over 20 years of experience in human health sciences communications, including 10 years as an expert on pet health conditions and treatment. She’s also spent over a decade researching at-home pet DNA, allergy, wellness, and other types of tests. At Canine Journal, she’s part of a team of dedicated canine professionals and long-time dog owners who test and research the best pet products, not only for our own pups but for all of our readers. Canine Bible is reader-supported. We receive affiliate commissions via some of our links. Learn more. How much is allergy testing for dogs? There are several different ways to test for dog allergies. The cost of a dog allergy test can vary depending on the type of test used, vet’s examination, administrative fees and other factors. If you want to learn how much allergy testing is for dogs, here’s a quick rundown of dog allergy testing prices, plus any extra fees you may incur when performing these tests. Let’s face it, not knowing what to expect can make the experience stressful, prevent it from happening, or result in an unexpected vet bill. Knowing the cost before testing your dog for allergies can help you plan your budget and pick a test that fits your finances. Let’s dive right in! Table of Contents The average dog allergy test cost ranges from \$60 to \$350, regardless of the test type\*. Keep in mind that added to this would be the cost of the office visits, veterinary exams, and any additional tests or procedures that would be recommended prior to or along with allergy testing. These costs will be discussed with you at the time of your visit. \*We’ve considered at-home dog allergy tests within this range. The cost of dog allergy testing varies from vet clinic to vet clinic and may depend on the number of allergens tested. A pet dermatologist generally performs dog allergy skin testing and involves pricking the skin and checking for reactions to possible allergens. They can also perform a blood test. On average, you can expect to pay about \$200 to \$350\*. That being said, your vet will be able to give you an estimate of the cost for the type of test your dog needs. \*We’ve considered only blood and skin test for this price range as most veterinarians only performed those two test types. Here is a list of items that can cause the price of your test to go up or down You also need to factor in the cost of treating allergies if your pet is diagnosed with an allergy. If this is the case, your veterinarian may recommend allergy treatments such as dog allergy medicine. The price of these medicines can vary widely, depending on the brand, medication, and dosage needed. Since allergy medications are generally given for your dog’s lifetime, the cost over time should be considered. Allergy medications typically require a prescription. Dogs allergic to certain foods will require specialized hypoallergenic diets, which are pricier than the average dog food. Depending on the food your dog is allergic to, you might need to buy or prepare custom meals designed for allergies and sensitive stomachs to avoid triggering your dog’s allergies. Occasionally, it’s something environmental, such as a carpet, dust in the house, or something like that. Testing for environmental factors can get expensive and is a trial-and-error process. In other cases, your vet may recommend you use allergy shots (aka also called immunotherapy) to manage the allergy. Depending on your pet and their needs, your dog’s first visit for allergy shots can cost over \$1,200. You can generally expect to pay approximately \$150 for four months’ worth of medication. Each shot can cost differently depending on its dosage.[1] If your dog is predisposed to severe allergies, your vet will recommend using an EpiPen as an emergency treatment for an acute allergic reaction. EpiPens generally cost \$669 for a two-pack of EpiPen.[2] There are many types of allergies, each requiring a different diagnostic test. Pricing depends mainly on the test type. Here is what you can expect to pay by test type. BrandPriceEasyDNA\$10455Strands\$88At My Pet \$101Nutriscan\$298UCAR1\$69.99Glacier Peak Holistics Scan\$129.95 A skin test involves pricking the skin and introducing a possible allergen to determine if the skin reacts. Compared to blood tests, skin tests are more accurate and sometimes cheaper. Prices range from \$200 to \$250. Some general veterinarians can perform the skin test but generally are conducted by a pet dermatologist. The results are almost immediate, usually within 15-30 minutes. Blood testing is more convenient than skin testing, but costs tend to be higher, \$200 to \$350. Most general veterinarians can take blood and send it to a lab for diagnostic work. However, the results are typically available in about one to two weeks. To confirm or find the allergen-causing allergies in your pup, your vet may recommend the elimination diet, which is the gold standard for food allergy diagnosis in dogs. This is an effort to find what a dog is allergic to by isolating ingredients in their diet and reintroducing them until you find the one ingredient causing the adverse reaction. Along with being time-consuming, this can be costly as it consists of a prescribed home-cooked or prescription therapeutic diet such as hypoallergenic foods. Here is a price breakdown of the two most common kinds of testing used to detect allergies in dogs. Price / Test TypeAt-HomeBloodSkin PrickLowest Price\$69\$200\$200Highest Price\$298\$350\$250 Before you spend money on testing your dog for allergies, you should determine whether your dog is suffering from an allergic reaction or exhibiting symptoms of another health problem. Getting a professional opinion is always recommended, but here are some symptoms of dog allergies to watch for. Fur loss Red, irritated, and swollen skin Excessive licking or itching Watery eyes Recurring ear and paw infections Vomiting and diarrhea Sneezing and wheezingPeriodic chewing on body parts Repeatedly rubbing body parts on walls, furniture, or the ground We found real stories from people and their experiences paying for dog allergy testing. From our findings, we saw that people end up paying between \$275 to \$1100. Your cost will vary by case, as you will see below. The answer depends on when you signed up for pet insurance. The allergies in your pet are considered pre-existing if they appeared before you purchased a pet insurance policy. Nonetheless, if your dog begins showing symptoms of allergies after the policy’s effective date and after all waiting periods have passed, allergies may be covered. If your prescribes allergy testing and your dog’s allergies aren’t a pre-existing condition, your dog will be eligible for coverage by your pet insurance provider. How much does a dog food allergy testing cost?Testing your dog for food allergies usually costs between \$69 to \$295. Price will depend on test type and whether it’s an at-home test or in-office vet procedure How much does an allergy test cost for a dog UK?In the UK, the dog blood or skin prick test for allergies costs around £130 to £195. On the other hand, an at-home dog allergy testing kit can cost anywhere from £35 to £100, with discounts for multi-pet families. Is allergy testing for dogs expensive?Allergy testing for dogs can turn expensive if your dog tests positive for certain allergens. You will need to factor in the medication and treatment cost your vet will prescribe. Which dog allergy test is the cheapest?At-home dog allergy test kits are dogs’ most affordable allergy testing options. The price of allergy testing your dog depends on a multitude of factors. Various allergy testing options are available in the market, making them more affordable. However, we recommend speaking to your vet about the options. They will recommend what is best for your dog based on your pup’s health and symptoms. Even though allergy testing might seem costly for some people, it can be the best way to diagnose and treat your pet’s condition. Having pet insurance that covers allergies can be of great help in such situations. Life can be miserable for a dog with allergies. Knowing which allergens are responsible for the itchiness, discomfort, and tummy upset, however, isn’t always obvious. What is Dog Allergy Testing? Dog allergy testing is used to determine how a pup’s immune system will respond to specific environmental allergens like fleas, pollen, and mold spores. Veterinarians rely on two types of tests to accomplish this. One test, called intradermal testing - or skin testing - is always performed by a board-certified veterinary dermatologist. “Intradermal skin testing is typically performed under anesthesia or sedation,” says Dr. Frank Gomez, an associate veterinarian at Heart + Paw, who works at several of their mid-Atlantic locations. “A patch of skin is shaved and a number of allergens are injected individually under the skin to assess a reaction.” This is considered the most accurate way to test for allergies, but is also more expensive, and may not be right for all dogs. The second test, called serum testing - or blood allergy testing - is a basic blood test that most veterinarians can perform. Once blood is drawn at the veterinary clinic, it’s sent to a laboratory for analysis. Both types of dog allergy tests can pinpoint the specific environmental allergens causing sensitivity, says Dr. Susan Jeffrey, an associate veterinarian at Odyssey Veterinary Care in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The purpose of these tests, she says, is to determine which allergens are most appropriate for the dog’s immunotherapy cocktail treatment. “For example, if the dog isn’t allergic to dust mites based on the tests, then we would not include dust mite allergens in the allergy shot or sublingual drops.” These tests have been in existence for many decades, says Restrepo, and “testing continues to improve and evolve.” Neither of these tests, however, can currently identify a dog’s sensitivity to food allergies. This process usually involves feeding the dog a restricted diet over a few weeks, and waiting to see if dog allergy symptoms improve. “Types of Dog Allergy Tests When you’re ready to speak to your veterinarian about dog allergy testing, the conversation will likely revolve around either (or both) intradermal allergy testing and serum testing. Intradermal Allergy Testing for Dogs (AKA Skin Allergy Test) The intradermal skin allergy test for dogs is performed exclusively by veterinary dermatologists. They screen for a wide range of environmental allergies, like trees, weed, and grass pollens, house dust mites, mold spores, and fleas, explains Restrepo. “Overall, dermatologists are able to pinpoint the allergy in about 75 percent of dogs and cats.” The process typically requires mild sedation, Restrepo says. “We clip the hair from the side of the chest. About 60 small injections are given just under the skin of this area. If the pet is allergic to certain environmental allergens tested, a “hive” forms at the site of one or more injections.” Serum Testing (AKA Blood Allergy Test) Unlike intradermal allergy testing for dogs, which is performed exclusively by board-certified veterinary dermatologists, almost any veterinarian can perform a blood test, known as a radioallergosorbent (RAST) test. Once the blood is drawn, the veterinary clinic sends the sample to a laboratory for analysis. “The blood is then tested for the presence of IgE antibodies (immunoglobulin E are antibodies created by the immune system) that cause itchy skin,” explains Jeffrey. “The IgE antibodies are then tested against many different environmental allergens such as tree and plant pollens, molds, and dust mites. The allergens with the highest concentrations of IgE are then selected to make a “cocktail” of allergy drops (or shots) for the given dog.” The results are typically available in two to four weeks, says Restrepo. “This type of testing requires more careful interpretation than skin testing. In addition, we believe only a few certain laboratories provide more accurate results.” Gomez says both tests can be helpful, though intradermal skin testing is considered the “gold standard for accuracy” when diagnosing environmental allergies. It’s not that one test is more accurate than the other, says LaRock. “But rather that each dog will respond differently to each test. If it’s in your budget to do both, many vets will recommend that you explore both options and compare the results.” Dog Food Allergy Testing Veterinarians don’t use the intradermal skin test or RAST blood test to screen for food allergies in dogs. “The best way to determine if a dog has a food allergy is to put it on a hypoallergenic diet for about 8 weeks,” says Jeffrey. “If the dog becomes less itchy throughout the 8-week period, then the dog is ‘challenged’ by being fed the diet it ate before the test to see if the itchy skin returns. If so, then it can be determined that there is a food allergy.” Naturally, if the hypoallergenic diet works, many pet owners elect to stay on the diet rather than see if itching and other symptoms come back off of the diet. At Home Dog Allergy Tests The at home dog allergy test kits on the market claim to screen for potential environmental, household, and food allergens. Some kits claim to test for all of these allergens, while some may just offer a dog food allergy test. With most at home dog allergy tests, you take a swab of your dog’s saliva then mail it to the company’s laboratory for analysis. After a few weeks, the company sends you a profile with your dog’s potential allergens with suggestions of items that could be eliminated from the dog’s environment or diet. One issue with at home dog allergy tests, veterinary professionals say, is accuracy. “There are now multiple brands that offer at home saliva testing for dogs with allergies, but evidence shows that they have a high rate of false positives,” says LaRock. Many veterinarians and veterinary dermatologists don’t recommend at-home dog allergy tests as an effective step in diagnosing a dog’s allergies. Dog Allergy Testing Benefits An allergy test for dogs can help your veterinarian pinpoint which allergens are causing your pup’s distress. It also has very few false positive reactions, says Restrepo, so there’s a good chance for success. Once the offending allergens are identified, your veterinarian can develop an immunotherapy plan specific to your dog. “If it is successful, the dog will no longer have itchy skin in the face of these allergens,” says Jeffrey. This also translates into cost (and time) savings. “If the dog responds, the owner will be saving money controlling itchy skin and subsequent secondary yeast and bacterial infections (and vet appointment fees) in the long run,” adds Jeffrey. Also, your dog will feel better, and you won’t be kept up at night by scratching and chewing. Drawbacks of Dog Allergy Testing Allergy testing for dogs is an involved process. “It requires an intensely dedicated pet owner (both time and financial dedication), an amenable pet to receive treatments, and skilled expertise by a veterinary dermatologist to maximize successful treatment outcomes,” says Restrepo. Veterinarians say it can take a year or more to see optimal results. There are also no guarantees. Though the success rate for immunotherapy, says Restrepo, is 60 percent to 75 percent, your dog may be part of the small percentage of pups who don’t find answers through allergy testing. Dog allergy testing can also be expensive. Plus, “Some patients may need both blood testing and intradermal testing for diagnosis. Intradermal skin testing also requires sedation or anesthesia to perform,” says Gomez. As with any procedure, there are always risks. Sedatives used for intradermal allergy testing for dogs, for example, can carry side effects like vomiting. Dog Allergy Testing Costs Dog allergy testing costs vary by veterinary clinic and is based on which test (or tests) your veterinarian orders, though they can typically run anywhere between \$80 to \$350. RAST blood tests, says LaRock, are usually much cheaper than skin tests. CareCredit puts the average estimate for a blood test between \$80 to \$200, and \$195 to \$350 for a skin test. This price tag doesn’t include additional costs. For example, Veterinary visits, which can run anywhere from \$50 to \$250 for each visit (or more, especially for a specialist) depending on what the visit involves.The cost of sedation (for intradermal allergy tests), which can run between about \$75 to \$200, depending on the size of your dog. Additional tests your veterinarian may need to run. For example, your dog may need both a skin test and a blood test.Costs associated with dog allergy treatment. Allergy shots for dogs, for example, costs between \$40 to \$80 per month. An at home dog allergy test typically ranges between \$100 and \$250. Is Dog Allergy Testing Worth It? Though the road to relief from allergies can be long and expensive, veterinary professionals say a dog allergy test can be worth the effort. “If a dog is suffering with their chronic allergies, I always think it is worth exploring allergy testing if your budget allows you to do so,” says LaRock. “This can allow your vet to pinpoint the specific allergic, find a treatment plan that supports your pet when this allergen is present, and make a positive impact on their quality of life.” When done properly, most veterinarians can make a proper diagnosis in 75 percent of cases, says LaRock. “For most dogs that are suffering from allergies, this success rate is high enough to persuade most owners to give it a try. If budget is ever an issue, pet parents can start with a RAST blood test, as this is often significantly cheaper than the dermal tests.” You may also want to discuss other options with your veterinarian. “I generally don’t jump to allergy testing in dogs,” says Jeffrey. Instead, she recommends medications that can quickly keep the dog comfortable. “I prefer this route for dogs who have seasonal allergies. For example, itchiness for a few months out of the year,” she explains. “However, if a dog is allergic to something that’s present all year round (such as dust mites or storage mites), I’d recommend immunotherapy to hopefully replace or reduce the need for oral medications.” To determine if allergy testing is right for your dog, we recommend speaking to your veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary dermatologist.